

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03359

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

FROM LOSDEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS - INFORMAL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH
CANADA

1. AMBASSADOR BEESLEY AND I AND ADVISORS CONSULTED INFORMALLY AUGUST 28 ON THE WORK OF THE RESUMED SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. ON TWO ISSUES, DEFINITION OF THE OUTER EDGE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND DEEP SEABED PRODUCTION LIMITATIONS, CANADA MADE SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS.

2. SHELF: BEESLEY SAID THAT CANADA IS NOT ABLE TO MOVE ON THE SHELF. ON A VERY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS HE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAS BEEN REVIEWING THE QUESTION OF REVENUE SHARING BEYOND 200 MILES AND IS TAKING A VERY NEGATIVE VIEW. IT IS POSSIBLE THE MINISTRY WILL OPPOSE ANY REVENUE SHARING BEYOND 200 MILES.

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3. DEEP SEABEDS: DURING DISCUSSION OF THE US-CANADIAN COMPROMISE ON PRODUCTION CONTROLS, I EXPLAINED THE STATUS OF THE US REVIEW. I MADE THE POINT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO VIEW THE US-CANADIAN COMPROMISE IN THE CONTEXT OF HOW IT AFFECTS AN OVERALL PACKAGE ON A SEABED REGIME. BEESLEY SAID THAT CANADA IS DEVELOPING TALKING POINTS FOR

THEIR AMBASSADORS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY CAPITALS IN ORDER TO START A DIALOGUE WITH THE NINE ON PRODUCTION CONTROLS. THEY ALSO PLAN TO HAVE DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON. HE ADDED THAT A RECOMMENDATION MIGHT BE MADE TO JAMIESON TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE SECRETARY AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT MONTH.

4. COMMENT: THE QUESTION OF DEFINING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IS ALREADY CREATING A LOG-JAM IN OUR EFFORTS TO WIND UP THE NEGOTIATIONS OUTSIDE COMMITTEE I (DEEP SEABEDS) AND REINFORCE THEIR IMPACT ON STATE PRACTICE PENDING CONCLUSION OF A TREATY. REVENUE-SHARING ON THE SHELF BEYOND 200 MILES HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PART OF ANY SETTLEMENT ON THIS ISSUE. SHOULD CANADA REVERSE POSITION ON THAT ISSUE NOW, IT COULD BE FATAL TO ANY POSSIBILITY OF AN EVENTUAL TREATY, AND WOULD ADD TO LDC SUSPICIONS ABOUT US AND WESTERN MOTIVES IN GENERAL. BEESLEY IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF ANY SUCH REVERSAL AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE MOVEMENT ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE SHELF ISSUE AND REVENUE SHARING. I PHONED AMBASSADOR ENDERS AUGUST 29 WITH REQUEST THAT HE GET A READING ON THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE POSITION ON REVENUE SHARING HAS IN OTTAWA. I ALSO SPOKE TO UNDER SECRETARY COOPER AUGUST 29 TO APPRISE HIM OF THE FOREGOING. WHEN WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSITION IN OTTAWA ON THE REVENUE SHARING ISSUE, I WILL COMMUNICATE MY FURTHER

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VIEWS TO THE DEPARTMENT. LEONARD

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